

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.

TUESDAY EVENING, SEPT. 8, 1896.

THESE ANTS ARE VERY TERRORS.

Man and Beast Fear Them as They Do a Pestilence.

The most remarkable insect of South Africa is the driver ant, the Anomoma arens of the scientist.

This ant resembles the ordinary ant, except in size. It is much larger, varying from a quarter to three-quarters of an inch in length. The color is a dark brownish black. The head is large and powerful, and the mandibles are so curved that they grasp when closed. Thus they grasp their prey so tightly that it is impossible to loosen their hold without tearing the flesh.

But the most curious thing about this species is that neither the male nor female has as yet been discovered. This may seem to be a paradox, but the driver ant is the worker, and, as is the case with bees and several other insects, has neither sex.

This creature is called the driver ant on account of its manner of traveling. Countless thousands, nay, millions of them, travel in armies across the country. Their column is from five to ten feet across and is sometimes miles in length. They drive everything before them. No living being can withstand their onslaught, for they will attack the largest animals if molested, leaving nothing but a skeleton behind.

On the approach of an army of driver ants toward a village the inhabitants immediately vacate, taking to the woods, or, if a lake or stream is near, going out in canoes, knowing that it is useless to try to fight the ants. Entering the town, they fill every dwelling, devouring everything edible in it and clearing it entirely of all vermin. Then they pass on, leaving the house as clean as a whistle.

These creatures have been observed eating a fowl, and their manner of so doing is curious. First they make a path or road from the bird to their nest, clearing it of everything movable. Then, commencing at the bill, they pluck out every feather. When the bird is plucked, the ants proceed to bite off small pieces, which they convey to their house. When they are through, the skeleton is as white as if it had been scraped with a knife.

Driver ants are said to eat snakes, beginning by biting the reptile's eyes, thus rendering it helpless. On account of this habit, the natives say, the great python, after crushing and killing its prey, makes a circuit around it of a mile or so to see if there is an army of these ants approaching, and, if so, leaves the victim to them, realizing its own helplessness after it has eaten the food.

For the Relief of TORIES.

In 1783 a bill went rapidly through parliament appointing a commission to inquire into the losses of the loyalists. The sufferers were scattered all over the United States and the British possessions, while many of them were lying in English prisons for debts which they had no means of discharging. Many years had passed away since the majority had been driven from their homes, and the difficulties of inquiry and assessment of loss were immense. It will be sufficient to say that the commission took seven years to complete its task. Of course only a small minority of the loyalists were so situated as to be able to present and prove their claims, for the obvious openings for fraud were so great that the proceeding had to be of a most thorough and sometimes even offensive description. An average of about 40 per cent of the value of the loss on proved claims was paid. Confiscated estates were only the least difficult of these assets to deal with.

A mass of old debts were due by individual Americans to the refugees, and these were often impossible of legal proof, for the debtor who had repudiated his private obligations, either with the open or tacit sanction of his government, would be in no hurry to assist in proclaiming himself a defaulter. Nearly £4,000,000 in all was paid as compensation, representing about £10,000,000 actually proved in court as lost. There is not the slightest doubt, however, that even this latter figure was but a fraction of the total loss incurred.—Macmillan's Magazine.

BUCKLEN'S ARNICA SALVE.
THE BEST SALVE in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Ernest L. Allen.

There is nothing to prevent any one connecting a mixture and calling it "Sarsaparilla," and there is nothing to prevent anyone spending good money testing the stuff, but prudent people, who wish to be sure of their remedy, take only Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and so get cured.

25 GROSS MASON'S POCELAN LINED FRUIT JARS—pints, quarts and half-gallons—for sale by J. C. MILBURN.

TO CLOSE IT OUT—Honey-suckle Soap, a good toilet soap, 30c a dozen, 2 cakes for 5c, for sale by J. C. MILBURN.

THE PROPHYLACTIC TOOTH BRUSH, the most perfect cleaner made. Price 35 cents. For sale by E. S. LEADBEATER & SONS.

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AYER'S Sarsaparilla
It was the Only Sarsaparilla admitted At World's Fair.

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FIRE 4 CORN GRITS, 2 lbs for 5c, at J. C. MILBURN'S.

MEDIUM WEIGHT UNDERWEAR just received at A. C. SLAYMAKER'S.

LAWNS, latest styles; 12½c quality reduced to 10c; 10c quality reduced to 8c; 5c quality reduced to 4c; at A. C. SLAYMAKER'S.

BLEACHED COTTON REMNANTS nearly 1-yard wide, at 3½c, at A. C. SLAYMAKER'S.

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On and after June 7th, 1896, and until further notice the following ferry schedule will be in force.
Leave Alexandria, foot of King street, at 6:00, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a. m., 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30 and 7:15 p. m.
Leave Washington, foot of Seventh street, at 6:15, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a. m., 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30 and 7:15 p. m.
N. B. Same schedule Sundays, commencing Sunday, June 7th, 1896.

POTOMAC RIVER LANDINGS—STEAMER WAKEFIELD leaves Washington Mondays at 7:00 a. m., and Alexandria at 8:00 a. m., for landings as far as Nomini and on Wednesdays and Saturdays at same hours for St. Clement's Bay and Leonardtown.

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